

**DOE TEC Routing Topic Group Conference Call**  
**Thursday, January 31, 2008**  
**3:00 p.m. EST**

**Conference Call/Meeting Notes**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Chair:** Alex Thrower, DOE-OLM

**Topic Group Participants:**

Melissa Bailey, CSG-NE  
Jane Beetem, CSG-MW  
Kevin Blackwell, DOT/FRA  
Kurt Colborn, MHF Log. Solutions  
Anne deLain Clark, WGA/NM  
Ken Dahlke, Nebraska State Police  
Matt Dennis, SNL  
Fred Dilger, NV  
Ray English, DOE-NNPP  
Dan Fisher, PUC Ohio  
Bob Fronczak, AAR  
Ralph Hail, Norfolk Southern  
Bob Halstead, NV

Lisa Janairo, CSG-MW  
Dan Johnson, WIEB/WA  
Marsha Keister, INL  
Brad Levine, DOE/GC  
Mel Massaro, DOT/FRA  
Christina Nelson, NCSL  
Melanie Rasmusson, Iowa DPH  
Cort Richardson, CSG-NE  
Tim Runyon, CSG/MW  
Ruth Weiner, SNL  
Jim Williams, WIEB  
Sarah Wochos, CSG/MW

**Contractor Support:**

Lee Finewood, BAH  
Steve Schmid, BSC  
Patrick Gorman, Legin

**Summary:**

The conference call began at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Thursday, January 31, 2008. The main purpose of this call was to discuss the topic groups' approach to performing the Standard Problem exercise.

**Prior Business:**

No comments were made on the December 6, 2007 conference call/meeting notes. The December 6, 2007 conference call/meeting notes will be considered final.

There was an in-depth discussion of the wording changes to the Routing Principles Document proposed by the NE Task Force. They had proposed bifurcating the existing criteria into either a "principle" (loosely defined as an uncompromising and widely held belief), or a "selection factor" which could vary according to the values and interests of the individual. The representatives from the NE and the NW provided their input and there was additional discussion

on the effects of trying to achieve equity in route determination. No consensus was achieved on revising the Routing Principle document during the teleconference; the document will be updated when work on the Standard Problem progresses further.

Kevin Blackwell of the Federal Railway Administration reported that PHMSA hopes to release the Rail Transportation and Security enhancements (formerly known as the HM-232e rules) as an interim final rule by the end of March 2008.

### **Standard Problem Discussion:**

Several groups or individuals discussed a willingness to participate in conducting the Standard Problem exercise, and others indicated that they would be observing only. The discussion then turned to the question of the best way to get started. Bob Halstead provided some insight on the work already performed by the State of Nevada in analyzing routes. He discussed how certain simplifying assumptions were made to facilitate analysis. The three main assumptions were:

- Focus on a limited number of cross country corridors by partitioning the country into north-south and east-west quadrants;
- Gateway cities – Two cities on the Mississippi River were chosen to segment travel from east to west;
- Use of continuous dedicated train sets.

### **Proposal for Railroad to Lead Exercise**

It was proposed that the Railroads be the first to attempt the Standard Problem exercise, due to their familiarity with the possible routes and their history of route selection in shipping hazardous materials. The proposal also included that the Railroad's solution for the standard problem exercise would be available for review and comment by the other members of the Routing Topic Group. The proposal would not prevent any member or team from doing their own route analysis, it was only to expedite and facilitate discussion of possible routes. It was agreed that this proposal was the best way forward, assuming the Class I railroads were agreeable to act as lead participants. (Short line railroads will only be involved as needed.) Bob Fronczak agreed to poll the Class I railroads to determine their willingness to participate [See Action Item 1].

### **Action Items:**

1. Bob Fronczak will poll the Class I railroads to determine if they would be willing to be lead participants in conducting the Standard Problem exercise. His goal was to be able to present an update at the TEC meeting the following week (February 6 or 7).